Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert beginning at page 1, line 5, before the first paragraph, the following new paragraph:

-- This application is a §371 national stage application of PCT/JP98/03328 filed July 24, 1998 which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. HEI-10-11281 filed January 23, 1998.--

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In the nucleotide sequence obtained, an open reading ~~flame~~ frame was selected through matching it to the collectin amino acid sequence. The nucleotide sequence corresponding to the amino acid sequence which could be read from the above open reading ~~flame~~ frame was picked out, and primers for digoxigenin (DIG) labeled cDNA probes (Reverse Primer (SEQ ID NO: 7) and Forward Primer (SEQ ID NO: 8)) corresponding to the parts of the nucleotide sequences were produced using DNA/RNA Synthesizer (Applied Biosystems, 392A). DIG labeling was achieved using PCR DIG Probe Synthesis Kit (Boehringer Mannheim). The reaction mixture contained: DNA fragments which were the excised inserts from the clone F1-1006D with *Eco*RI and *Xho*I (4.4 ng/μl, 12μl: 52.8 ng), 10 x buffer: 5μl, 25 mM $MgCl_2$: 5μl, dNTP (PCR Labeling Mix): 2.5μl, 20μM Reverse Primer : 2.5μl, 20μM Forward Primer : 5μl, H_2O : 18μl, Taq Polymerase : 0.5μl. PCR reaction was carried out using Zymoreactor (Atto Corp.,) through 35 cycles of: 1 minute at 92°C, 1 minute at 55°C, and 2 minutes at 72°C.--

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Hybridization probe employed for this analysis was the DIG labeled RNA probe corresponding to the cDNA sequence of ORF of the novel collectin (SEQ ID NO: 1), which was labeled using DIG RNA ~~Lasbeling~~ Labeling Kit (SP6/T7, Boehringer Mannheim). The analyzed membrane was Human Multiple Tissue Northern (MTN) Blot (Clonetech) containing each poly A^+ RNA from human (a) heart, (b) brain, (c) placenta, (d) lung, (e) liver, (f) skeletal muscle, (g) kidney and (h) pancreas, which was prepared by: modification of the electric charge of a nylon membrane prior to transferring the RNA, the RNA transfer from a 1.2% formaldehyde denaturalized agarose gel which had been previously loaded with 2 μg of the above each poly A^+ RNA and electrophoresed, and then followed by a fixation using UV irradiation.--